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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/698,873	10/31/2003	Martin T. Gerber	P-8436.05US	2001
27581	7590	12/06/2007	EXAMINER	
MEDTRONIC, INC.			EVANISKO, GEORGE ROBERT	
710 MEDTRONIC PARKWAY NE			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55432-9924			3762	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/06/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/698,873	GERBER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	George R. Evanisko	3762	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/9/07.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 16, 20-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 16 and 20-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/9/07 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later

invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 16 and 20-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Brucker et al (5643197). Brucker includes a lead body, 22, with four distal and proximal ring electrodes, 30, connector, 36/40, and a flexible mesh electrode (e.g. col 3, lines 52-62) with lattice framing windows (figure 15, column 8). Brucker is capable of meeting the functional use recitations presented in the claim, such as possessing sufficient mechanical flexibility and being of small diameter to be inserted through a foramen, since Brucker's lead is inserted through the veins, is flexible, and is a mesh electrode. In addition, Brucker states that his electrode has a length from 5 mm to 5 centimeters, which covers the claimed range of 10mm-38mm, but more specifically discloses with sufficient specificity that the electrode preferably has a length from 0.5 cm to 1.5 cm (i.e. 5 mm to 15 mm). Brucker shows in the figures, such as figure 1, 15, etc. that the lead/catheter body, 22, has a common outer diameter throughout its length. Note that element 34/24 is a handle and not part of the lead body. Brucker also states that the catheter can range from 4F to 12F (1.33 mm to 3 mm) and therefore also discloses with sufficient specificity a length in the claimed range of about 0.5 mm to "about 2 mm". In regards to the ring electrode(s) being "solid surface materials", Brucker's electrodes are solid (dictionary definition of solid-- of uniformly close and coherent texture : not loose or spongy : COMPACT b: possessing or characterized by the properties of a solid : neither gaseous nor liquid) surface materials as described in figures 2-5 and 10, claim 3 of Brucker, and column 7, lines 20-40 and his electrodes are platinum or stainless steel (col. 6, line 24 and col. 7, lines 20-40). Brucker also shows the conductors in

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figure 11 and 16 and states that port 36 has electrical connection means for the electrodes and therefore would inherently have connectors for the electrodes in order for the electrodes to operate independently and deliver and sense signals.

In the alternative, Brucker discloses the use of multiple proximal and distal ring electrodes and conductors, except for the additional connectors (second and third), the conductors going from the connectors to the electrodes, and the ring electrodes being a solid surface material (being without any holes in the surface). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the lead as taught by Brucker, with additional connectors, the conductors going from the connectors to the electrodes, and the ring electrodes being a solid surface material since it was known in the art that patient leads incorporate: additional distal/proximal ring electrodes, conductors, and proximal connectors to provide the predictable results of additional therapy or sensing to/from the patient using one lead instead of multiple leads; and solid surface material ring electrodes to provide the predictable results of a ring electrode that is less prone to cracking/breaking/fatigue.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/9/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The argument that Brucker does not disclose ring electrodes but only tip 26 is not persuasive since Brucker discloses ring electrodes 30.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George R. Evanisko whose telephone number is 571 272 4945. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on 571 272 4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

George R Evanisko
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3762
12/1/07

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